

And it seems so sad to me, Mr. Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber. So as the smallest gesture, I would ask for those in the Chamber who are inclined to join me for a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,930 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough. And that it is time that we stood up together again and remember that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and that marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust. And we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered, and that we will all too soon, each one of us, walk from these Chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of unborn children in this Nation. May that be the day that we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny little brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is June 17, 2008, 12,930 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2009 THROUGH FY 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 and for the 5-year period of fiscal years 2009 through 2013. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 301 and 302 of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under S. Con. Res. 70 for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 and fiscal years 2009 through 2013. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure.

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 with the "section 302(a)" allocation of discretionary budget authority and outlays to the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee shortly will be distributing this section 302(a) allocation among its subcommittees, creating 302(b) suballocations. At that time, a point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act will become applicable to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 for accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 302 of S. Con. Res. 70. This list is needed to enforce section 302 of the budget resolution,

which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that: (i) are not identified in the statement of managers; or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN S. CON. RES. 70

(Reflecting Action Completed as of June 13, 2008—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2008 ¹	Fiscal Year 2009 ^{1, 2}	Fiscal Years 2009–2013
Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	2,454,256	2,455,920	n.a.
Outlays	2,435,860	2,490,920	n.a.
Revenues	1,875,400	2,029,644	11,780,107
Current Level:			
Budget Authority	2,448,861	1,472,948	n.a.
Outlays	2,433,207	1,875,104	n.a.
Revenues	1,879,400	2,097,399	12,116,677
Current Level over (+) / under (-) Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	-5,395	-982,972	na.
Outlays	-2,653	-615,816	n.a.
Revenues	4,000	67,755	336,570

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2010 through 2013 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

¹ Current aggregates do not include spending covered by section 301(b)(1) (overseas deployments and related activities). The section has not been triggered to date in Appropriations action.

² Current aggregates do not include Corps of Engineers emergency spending assumed in the budget resolution, that will not be included in current level due to its emergency designation (section 301(b)(2)).

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2008 in excess of \$5,395 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2009 in excess of \$982,972 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2009 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2008 in excess of \$2,653 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2009 in excess of \$615,816 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2009 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2008 in excess of \$4,000 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY2008 revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2009 in excess of \$67,755 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY2009 revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 in excess of \$336,570 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION
COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 13, 2008

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

	2008		2009		2009–2013 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
House Committee:						
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education and Labor:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	395	0	1,496	0	4,176	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	–395	0	–1,496	0	–4,176	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION¹

[In millions of dollars]

	302 Allocations ²		Current level reflecting action completed as of June 13, 2008		Current level minus allocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
2008	1,050,478	1,094,944	1,045,478	1,092,291	–5,000	–2,653
2009	1,011,718	1,106,112	25,719	486,341	985,999	619,771

¹ Comparisons are not provided by subcommittee because the Appropriations Committee has not yet approved 302(b) allocations pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act and S. Con. Res. 70.

² Allocation for 2009 can be further adjusted if funding is provided pursuant to section 301 of S. Con. Res. 70.

*2010 and 2011 advance appropriations under
section 302 of S. Con. Res. 70*
[Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars]

Appropriate Level	2010 28,852
Enacted advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	---
Job Corps	---
Education for the Disadvantaged School Improvement	---
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	---
Special Education	---
Career, Technical and Adult Education	---
Payment to Postal Service	---

2010
Tenant-based Rental Assistance ..
Project-based Rental Assistance ..
2011
Appropriate Level¹

n.a.
Enacted advances:
Accounts Identified for Advances:
Corporation for Public Broadcasting

¹ S. Con. Res. 70 does not provide a dollar limit for 2011.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through June 13, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved

by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Since my last letter, dated January 29, 2008, the Congress has cleared several acts that affect budget authority, outlays, and revenues. Please see footnote 1 of the accom-

panying report for a list of those acts. This is CBO's first current level report since the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 13, 2008

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,879,400
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,441,017	1,394,894	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,604,649	1,635,118	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	—596,805	—596,805	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	2,448,861	2,433,207	1,879,400
Total Current Level ²	2,448,861	2,433,207	1,879,400
Total Budget Resolution ³	2,562,312	2,464,761	1,875,392
Adjustment to budget resolution pursuant to section 301(b)(1) ⁴	—108,056	—28,901	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,454,256	2,435,860	1,875,392
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	4,008
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	5,395	2,653	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110–181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–232), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–234), SAFETEA–LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act (H.R. 6081).

² For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.

³ Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,563,262	2,465,711	1,875,392
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	—950	—950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	0	0	8
Revised Budget Resolution	2,562,312	2,464,761	1,875,392

⁴ Section 301(b)(1) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$108,056 million in budget authority and \$28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Because action to date has not triggered this provision, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2009 budget and is current

through June 13, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved

by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

This is CBO's first current level report for fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director.)

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 13, 2008

(in millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,097,399
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,485,953	1,436,774	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	471,581	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	—587,749	—587,749	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	898,204	1,320,606	2,097,399
Entitlements and mandates:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	574,744	554,498	0
Total Current Level ²	1,472,948	1,875,104	2,097,399
Total Budget Resolution ³	2,531,681	2,566,881	2,029,644
Adjustment to budget resolution pursuant to section 301(b)(1) ⁴	—70,000	—74,809	n.a.
Adjustment to budget resolution pursuant to section 301(b)(2) ⁵	—5,761	—1,152	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,455,920	2,490,920	2,029,644
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	67,755
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	982,972	615,816	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2009–2013:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	12,116,677
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,780,107
Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,780,107
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	336,570
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110–181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–232), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–233), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–234), SAFETEA–LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act (H.R. 6081).

² For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.

³ Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,530,703	2,565,903	2,029,612
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	950	950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	28	28	32

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,531,681	2,566,881	2,029,644

⁴ Section 301(b)(1) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$70,000 million in budget authority and \$74,809 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Because action to date has not triggered this provision, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

⁵ Section 301(b)(2) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$5,761 million in budget authority and \$1,152 million in outlays for the Corps of Engineers. Because action to date has not triggered this provision, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORTENBERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BONNIE RICHARDSON, A CHAMPION IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, Heywood Broun, a renowned sportswriter and life-long champion of the underdog, once said that "Sports do not build character, they reveal it." I've heard it before, but today I finally understand it thanks to Rochelle High School junior Bonnie Richardson.

On the weekend of May 9 and 10 this year, high school athletes from all across Texas gathered for the State track and field championship. At the meet, athletes compete for two honors, for success in each event as individuals and for the State championship as a team.

With Bonnie Richardson as a sole member of the Rochelle High School Lady Hornets to qualify for the meet, the Lady Hornets were the ultimate underdog to win a team trophy. Yet, after medaling in all five of her events—winning two golds, two silvers and a bronze—Bonnie found herself in an unlikely position, standing atop the podium to accept the girl's Class 1A team trophy. Her five individual medals earned her 42 points, more than any other school in her team's class. She also wrote herself into the Texas Track and Field history books as the only female ever to win a State team championship without the help of teammates.

While Bonnie's accomplishment defines the word "exceptional," the depth of her character is not revealed in her medals or trophies, but in her attitude. Even as her story has been transmitted around the world and back again, her comments reflect a young woman with poise beyond her years. In every article and in every quote, Bonnie has been very gracious to her competitors and modest in her unparalleled achievement.

In an era where athletes' behavior and attitudes can be more infamous than celebrated, Bonnie's self-effacing demeanor shows us how sportsmanship should be practiced. I am amazed by Bonnie's athletic prowess, but I am humbled by her easy and free manner in which she praises her opponents, remains grateful for her gifts, and uplifts those around her. Although such an attitude may seem routine to her, a lifetime has taught me that character like hers is not as common as we would all wish.

Bonnie's quiet confidence extends beyond her abilities in track and field. She is a well-rounded athlete who is an all-state basketball player and an accomplished tennis player. In addition, she is in the running to be named her class valedictorian. It is clear to me that her attitude is an asset in all she undertakes.

It is an honor to represent Bonnie and all the students like her across the 11th District of Texas. As she prepares for her senior year, and as her national notoriety begins to wane, I wish her luck in returning to her version of business as usual—excelling at everything—and success in the upcoming season and beyond.

BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you tonight to lead a discussion among the Blue Dog Coalition as we talk about issues of fiscal responsibility, pursuing a balanced budget, and doing the right thing for future generations.

I would like to open this discussion by recognizing one of my colleagues, one of the newest members of the Blue Dogs, Mr. CAZAYOUX from Louisiana, and I would yield to him as much time as he may consume.

Mr. CAZAYOUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my support for the PAYGO principles by which the Congress has committed to govern.

As a newly elected Member of Congress, PAYGO simply makes sense to me. Thomas Jefferson realized the importance of PAYGO principles nearly 200 years ago when he said, "It is incumbent upon every generation to pay its own debts as it goes."

In the 110th Congress, we have made PAYGO a priority, and I hope it continues to remain a priority. My Blue Dog colleagues and I are cosponsoring H.R. 2686 that will extend the PAYGO rules through fiscal year 2012. I urge all

Members of Congress to support this important piece of legislation.

I believe that balancing a budget and paying down the debt can be done. We will have to make tough choices now to ensure that our future remains financially solvent for our children. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight, and thank you to all my Blue Dog colleagues for their work in furthering the PAYGO principle.

Mr. MATHESON. I thank my colleague for his comments, a new Member of this body, but someone who recognizes the importance of fiscal responsibility.

I think that it's important to expand on what PAYGO is. This is a term that gets thrown around a lot in Washington, but we really ought to review what it means. And at its basis, it's a pretty simple concept, and that is that if you have new spending, you've got to pay for it. You've got to pay for it by cutting spending elsewhere or raising revenues, but you've got to pay for it.

And, you know, this isn't a new concept even here in Washington. It turns out back in 1990, during the presidency of George H.W. Bush, Congress passed legislation to put a pay-as-you-go, or PAYGO, policy into effect. And at that time, Congress came together in a bipartisan way and then President Bush signed that into law.

And when it was passed, it put us on a path to where decisions had to be made where you had to live within a budget. Everybody in this town can come up with a new idea about how to spend money, both sides of the aisle, everyone can come up with those ideas. It's easy to say yes to that. It's a lot more difficult to say, you know what, we're going to live within a budget. But you know what, we ought to be doing that because that's what everyone in this country does, everyone who runs a business, everyone in their own household budget, everybody does that.

So let's look at what happened after passage of that law in 1990. There were a number of other things that happened during the decade of the 1990s. There was a strong economic growth period, the dot-com industry really took off, and a whole series of reasons, including restraint on spending in Washington, allowed us to move from annual deficits to annual surpluses. It was a remarkable period in our country's history to have that transition take place. And it was an exciting time for this country. And it was good for the government's books to be balanced and it was good for our economy, and it led to a stronger dollar. I mention that, and we'll come back to that later in this discussion, because today we all know we're suffering from a rather low dollar situation in the global economy.